



PRESS RELEASE

March 29, 2016

SUBJECT: Massage Enforcement Operations / Prostitution Arrest

CASE NUMBER: 1503567 / 1600113

DATE OCCURRED: October, 2015 to March, 2016

CONTACT PERSON: Lieutenant Troy F. Fry

In June of 2015, the San Bruno City Council adopted an ordinance to update rules and regulations associated with operating a massage establishment in the city. The intent of the ordinance was to prevent neighborhood blight, protect and preserve the quality of life in neighborhoods and commercial districts, and to enhance the enforcement of statutes relating to the conduct of operators and employees of massage businesses. This ordinance also made local statutes consistent with state legislation addressing the operation of massage establishments.

The San Bruno Police Department recognizes that massage therapy can offer valuable health and therapeutic services. The department further recognizes that, unless properly regulated and monitored, the practice of massage therapy and the operation of massage businesses is susceptible to being associated with unlawful activity. Among these behaviors are prostitution and human trafficking. Accordingly, over the past few months, the San Bruno Police Department has taken steps to ensure that massage businesses in the city operate within the scope of existing statutes. These efforts have included sending the updated city ordinance to each establishment, visiting each place of business to review the conditions included in the statute, and conducting preliminary inspections to provide advice regarding areas that appeared to be out of compliance.

Following efforts to educate business owners and employees, the San Bruno Police Department conducted numerous enforcement operations including standard compliance inspections and undercover efforts aimed at discouraging human trafficking, prostitution, and other illegal activities carried on under the guise of massage therapy.

As a result of enforcement operations several minor violations were discovered and two separate arrests were made for the solicitation for an act of prostitution.

On November 5, 2015, an operation was conducted at Sunrise Massage, located at 121 El Camino Real. An employee, thirty six year-old, Sacramento resident, Jiemei Yang, was arrested for a violation of Penal Code 647(b), Solicitation for an act of Prostitution.

On January 11, 2016, an operation was conducted at Go Healthy Spa, located at 217 El Camino Real, Suite B. The owner of the business, fifty seven year-old, San Francisco resident, Mai Phuong Nguyen-Vu was arrested for a violation of Penal Code 647(b), Solicitation for an act of Prostitution.

In accordance with state and local law, the city is taking action to close the two massage businesses where prostitution activity was discovered. Additionally, pursuant to the Red Light Abatement Act, a conviction for prostitution at a massage business may prevent the property owner from renting the property for up to a year.

The San Bruno Police Department is committed to protecting public health, safety, and welfare. Additional operations and random inspections of massage establishments will take place in 2016 with a goal of preserving the quality of our neighborhoods and commercial districts. These operations will also seek to discover those who frequent massage establishments for the purpose of engaging in illegal behavior.

Anyone with information regarding unlawful activities occurring at local massage establishments are encouraged to call the San Bruno Police Department at (650) 616-7100. Information can also be provided anonymously by email to: sbpd@sanbruno.ca.gov.